



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Statement of U.S. Rep. Ron Kind Regarding Fairness in Farm and Food Policy Amendment

Washington, DC – The *Fairness in Farm and Food Policy Amendment* was defeated on the floor of the House of Representatives this evening. U.S. Rep. Ron Kind made the following statement:

“Today, the House of Representatives missed an opportunity. It missed an opportunity to create a more equitable safety net for family farmers, to promote healthier food choices for Americans, to open up new markets for our agricultural products, and to show American taxpayers we’re being careful with their dollars.

“Given the districts they represent, I understand that it is unrealistic to expect members of the Agriculture Committee to be the agents of change. However, I also represent one of the largest agricultural districts in the country, and I know, like many of my farmers do, that these programs aren’t working. I had high hopes that this Congress – given market conditions and our commitment to a new direction for this country – would have the stomach to reform these out-dated and unfair policies. Sadly, I was wrong.

“That said, by changing this Farm Bill debate, our reform coalition was able to push the Agriculture Committee to make additional investments in conservation and nutrition, and make some modest inroads on limiting subsidies to the largest and wealthiest farmers. On the very morning of the vote, the Chairman included additional funding for the Grassland Reserve Program and McGovern/Dole, and made needed reforms to the federal crop insurance program – all a direct result of the pressure our amendment created.

“I am proud of the work of my colleagues, Reps. Flake, Blumenauer, Ryan, and others, as well as the broad coalition of groups who helped bring awareness to this bill and its great potential to help feed the hungry, promote healthy food, and better the environment. I urge them to continue their efforts, as I will, when the Senate moves forward with the development of their Farm Bill.

“I remain hopeful that we will have an opportunity to reform our farm policies to benefit family farmers before it is done for us by foreign courts through the WTO.”